

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 082462

63 S

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02

ACDA-05 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 EB-07

INRE-00 EUR-12 SSO-00 ISO-00 /066 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:PDMOLINEAUX:GLG

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

PM/SAS - D. NIEMI

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O R 102314Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, MU

SUBJECT: COLT

REF: MUSCAT 434

1. COLT ADVISES BEST CONTACT IS HERE IN WASHINGTON: MR. FRANK DECKER, COLT FIREARMS DIVISION, COLT INDUSTRIES INC., 1801 K ST., N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006, TEL: (202) 296-6720. COLT DOES NOT HAVE REPRESENTATIVE IN MIDDLE EAST.

2. DEPT. WOULD PREFER GOVT. OF OMAN DEAL DIRECTLY WITH MANUFACTURER, BUT WILL ASSIST AS INFORMATION CHANNEL. USG COULD 40T, OF COURSE, BECOME PARTY TO ANY CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS. COLT SAYS DEALS FREQUENTLY WITH FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON. SUGGEST GOVT. OF OMAN DEAL DIRECTLY WITH DECKER THROUGH OMANI EMBASSY WASHINGTON.

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PAGE 02 STATE 082462

3. DECKER ADVISES AS FOLLOWS ON PRICE AND AVAILABILITY:

M16 RIFLES APPROX. US DOLLARS 200 EACH; SPARES PACKAGE (PER 100 RIFLES, AND INCLUDING SOME AMMO) - APPROX. DOLLARS 4650. M16 AMMUNITION PRICE FLUCTUATES WIDELY, BUT A RECENT PRICE WAS APPROX. DOLLARS 150 PER 1000 ROUNDS. M203 GRENADE LAUNCHERS APPROX. DOLLARS 175 EACH. DUE TO US ARMY DEMANDS, COLT CURRENTLY CANNOT SUPPLY AMMUNITION, BUT

DECKER SAYS SEVERAL EUROPEAN MANUFACTURERS PRODUCE AMMO FOR M203. EXCEPT FOR M203 AMMO, COLT CAN EASILY SUPPLY ALL ITEMS BY SEPT. 1.

4. FYI, DECKER ALSO REPORTS THAT OMAN, THROUGH "CROWN AGENT" (UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON) MADE INQUIRIES RE M-16 PURCHASE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, THAT COLT RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY, BUT THAT OMAN DID NOT PURSUE MATTER AT THAT TIME. END FYI. KISSINGER

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